



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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121ST INDEPENDENCE DAY IN CHICAGO: RENOWNED FILIPINO HISTORIAN DELIVERS PRESENTATION ON “RIZAL: THE HERO AS TRAVELER”

17 June 2019, Chicago – A multi-awarded public historian, author and professor from the Ateneo de Manila University, has concluded his almost weeklong visit, which formed one of the highlights of the celebration of the 121st Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence in the third-largest city in the U.S.

Dr. Ambeth R. Ocampo flew into Chicago from Washington D.C. on Tuesday, June 11. He came upon the invitation of Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin who had invited Prof. Ocampo previously to lecture in Honolulu in 2017 while she was still Consul General in the Aloha State. His trip is also considered a major Sentro Rizal project co-sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in Manila.

He kicked off his visit with a symbolic floral offering at the Rizal monument in Margate Park on the city’s far north side, accompanied by Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin, DCG Romulo Victor Israel, Jr., officials of the Knights of Rizal (KR) and leaders of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) and Philippine American Cultural Foundation (PACF). As a Knight Grand Officer of Rizal (KGOR) himself, Dr. Ocampo wore the KR uniform during the solemn ritual.

The day’s main event was his presentation on “Rizal: The Hero as Traveler” at the Elston Place Market Mix Community Hall before an attentive Filipino-American audience. He shared his latest research discoveries at the U.S. Library of Congress with some never before seen photos that included a beaming Rizal.

His evident wit and humor and incomparable mastery of Rizal combined to make historical facts and information so much interesting. Not only did Ocampo let Rizal speak and come alive with trivia and insights about his all-too-human side, he also shared a profound understanding of how Rizal came to be acclaimed as a national hero and how the Filipino nation emerged from the inspiration our revolutionary heroes derived from his life, his works, his struggle and his martyrdom.

Much could still be discovered and understood about the “First Filipino” and “Greatest Malayan,” as Prof. Ambeth himself noted even after his more than three decades of research. Particularly for the majority of Filipinos who have not yet read Rizal despite the volumes of works he left behind, Ocampo suggests that there is much to be drawn from Rizal’s extraordinary genius and humanity that can help us as a nation and as individuals live with honor, dignity and respect, and with supreme confidence toward the future.

The prolific writer and columnist for the Philippine Daily Inquirer generously entertained questions and signed books and program copies for the audience. Prof. Ambeth also graced the highly symbolic flag raising at the Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago in the morning of Independence Day. He then took part in a special tour of the Philippines collection of the Field Museum in the afternoon before continuing his life-long love of doing research at the Newberry Library and engaging groups of interested community leaders in quiet conversations about Rizal and the many important lessons of Philippine history.

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Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin and Prof. Ambeth R. Ocampo lay the floral offering at the foot of the Rizal monument in Margate Park, Chicago.



Prof. Ocampo (6th from left) and Consul General Jamoralin (7th from left) are joined by officers of the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago; Knights of Rizal Maynilad and Malaya Chapters and Central USA Area; National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA); Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS); and Philippine American Cultural Foundation (PACF).



Prof. Ambeth R. Ocampo during his presentation which attracted a large audience from the Filipino-American community at the Elston Place Market Mix Community Hall in Chicago on June 11



The Rizal scholar and former Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) elaborates on a point during the Q&A portion as Consul Ryan Gener, moderator, looks on



Above Left: Prof. Ocampo receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin; **Right:** Like a rock star, Prof. Ocampo is requested to sign books and program copies as special souvenir by the attendees. **Below:** Officers of the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago and community leaders and representatives of the Working Committee that assisted in preparing for Prof. Ocampo's lecture pose with him and Consul General Jamoralin for a photo opportunity.

